

Five Questions About Vibrio

What is *Vibrio*?

- *Vibrio vulnificus* is a bacteria commonly found in warm, brackish, and salt water, and in shellfish, especially during the summer months.
- Infection is rare, yet it can be a serious disease.

How Can I Get Vibrio?

- Exposing open wounds, cuts, or scratches of the skin to brackish or salt water.
- Eating raw or undercooked shellfish, **especially** oysters.

Who Is At Risk?

- People with weakened immune systems, particularly those with chronic liver disease.
- Healthy people are rarely affected, but could develop a mild infection.



What Are The Symptoms?

- Symptoms and signs of Vibrio illness may include vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, or fever.
- Vibrio infection of the skin may lead to skin breakdown and skin ulcers.
- The bacteria can invade the bloodstream, causing a severe and life-threatening illness. Signs and symptoms of severe Vibrio illness may include fever, chills, decreased blood pressure (septic shock), and blistering skin lesions.



What Can I Do?

- Keep brackish and salt water away from open wounds.
- Wear foot protection when walking in the sand or in the water.
- Do not eat raw shellfish. Cook shellfish thoroughly before eating.
- Do not let ready-to-eat foods come into contact with raw shellfish or its juices.